REMARKS

The objections to form have been corrected, with the exception of the objection to claim 32. It is respectfully submitted that one skilled in the art would understand the claim not to require multiplication times one which would make no difference. Therefore, it is believed that the claim is clear.

With respect to the rejection of claim 1, based on Erimli, it is respectfully submitted that nothing in Erimli indicates that the data elements are in a predetermined order. The cited part of Erimli simply says that there is a buffer and that that buffer receives a packet. For example, at column 6, line 11, it is stated that the data packets from the network station are received and stored in the received FIFO 52 and, further, that "the received data packet is output from the corresponding receive FIFO 52 to the external memory interface for storage on the external memory 36." There is no discussion that the packets are in a predetermined order. They, apparently, are received one packet at a time and do not necessarily have a desired predetermined order. They are simply received a packet at a time and it is not indicated that those packets are in some order.
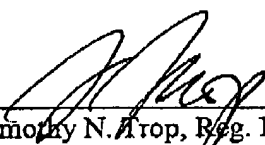
The point of the order, of course, is that you want to maintain the order while eliminating less than all the packets. That is not what Erimli does since he has no predetermined order to begin with. There is no predetermined order of the packets and each packet may be dealt with individually. In other words, each of the packets, based on data accompanying the packets, may be sent to one place or a packet may be sent and broadcast to multiple places. Thus, this all indicates that the packets, as received, are not in any particular order, but are simply received and processed individually based on the information they provide about what their intended purpose is. See column 6, lines 17-45.

Column 6, lines 46-52 suggests that the ordering within the queue is "random based." This does not correspond to sequential ordering.

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Therefore, reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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